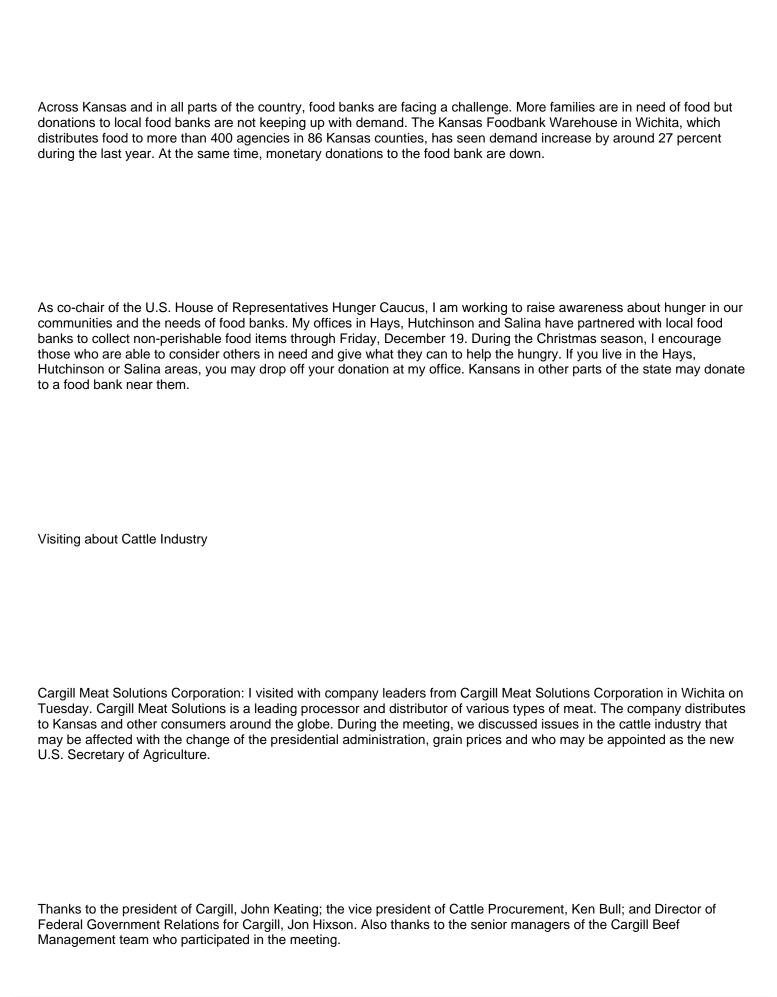
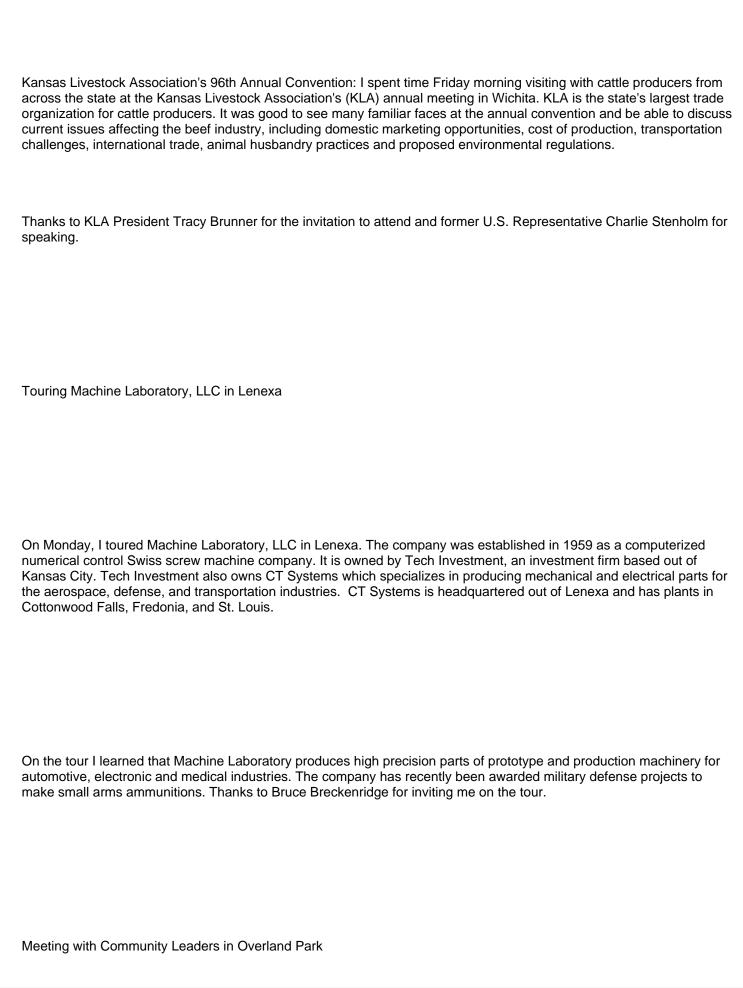
12/08/2008 This Week In Congress

This Week in Congress
December 8, 2008
Dear Friend,
Welcome to "This Week in Congress." I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. this week if Congress reconvenes to consider an automaker's bailout plan. I hope you find this newsletter useful.
From Washington to Home: Beginning My 13th Annual Listening Tour
Each year since coming to Congress, I conduct a listening tour, visiting communities in each of the 69 counties of the First Congressional District to learn about issues important to Kansans. I will begin my annual Big First Listening Tour next week. This year's tour is themed, "From Washington to Home." The first stop will be in Washington, in Washington County with the final stop in Home, in Marshall County.
My first two stops will both be on Monday, December 15, 2008. Click here to view the times and locations and to see the
other stops that have been scheduled. The remainder will be determined based upon the 2009 voting schedule for Congress. Check my Web site to stay up-to-date on the tour schedule.

Each year I look forward to the opportunity to visit communities and hear from Kansans. The issues I focus on and the work I do in Washington, D.C., are based on what I learn from these conversations.
Kansas State University is Home for National Bio- and Agro-Defense Laboratory
This week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced that it has selected Kansas State University (KSU) as the site location for the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Laboratory (NBAF). On Thursday, I joined KSU President Jon Wefeld and other state leaders at a press conference at KSU to formally announce this good news that will create benefits for the state of Kansas. Click here to read more about the press conference. Click here to listen to my comments about the site selection.
Studies conducted at the \$451 million federal bioscience laboratory will research ways to protect citizens and animals from the threat of disease. Research discovered will assist the U.S. agriculture industry by improving response time in the event of a disease outbreak. The state-of-the-art, highly-secure laboratory will house scientists from DHS, the Department of Agriculture and Health and Human Services. The facility will also create hundreds of new jobs for the Kansas economy.
Over the past three years, Kansas leaders demonstrated great initiative to bring NBAF to Manhattan, and as a member of the NBAF Task Force, I am proud to have been a part.
Food Drive Will Help The Hungry in Kansas





After learning about the work Machine Laboratory, LLC, does for our military, I attended the Overland Park Rotary Club meeting. As a member of the Hays Rotary Club, I enjoy visiting other clubs across the state to learn about issues important to that community. Civic clubs, such as Rotary, provide valuable leadership in helping make the places we call home better. Thanks to Dick Bond and Club President Jeff Goodman for their hospitality.
Visiting Wichita's Vet Center, Awaiting New Mobile Counseling Van
I visited the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Vet Center in Wichita on Tuesday. Wichita's Vet Center plays a vital rol of providing readjustment counseling services to combat veterans and their families.
The VA recently selected Wichita for one of its new mobile counseling centers. This 38-foot motor coach will bring ment health services closer to rural and underserved Kansan veterans across the state who otherwise may not have access to this important care. The mobile counseling center is expected to arrive soon.
I appreciate the time I spent with the Wichita Vet Center's dedicated staff, including team leader, James Gibson; counselors Lori Wiersma, Michael Felt and Gary Maloney; Global War on Terrorism outreach coordinator, Paul Miller; and office manager, Maria Delgado.

Attending University of Kansas Basketball Game
On Saturday afternoon, I had the opportunity to attend the University of Kansas basketball game versus Jackson State. While on the KU campus for the game, I had a chance to visit with Chancellor Robert Hemenway. Before the game I met Jordan Juenemann and his mother who are from Hays. Jordan is in his first year playing for the KU basketball team. Click here for a photo to see a photo of me and Jordan.
Thanks to Chancellor Hemenway, his wife Leah Hemenway and head basketball coach Bill Self for their hospitality.
In the Office
Andy Allison of Topeka and Dr. Barb Langner of Shawnee were in with the Kansas Health Policy Authority to discuss the state Medicaid budget. Maggie Nelson of Kansas City was in with Cerner to talk about the importance of health information technology and how it can be used to lower health care costs.
Very truly yours,

Jerry